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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Roland MAYER et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Appln. No. : 09/775,628

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : February 5, 2001

For : ELASTIC TRANSFER BELT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
DEC 26 2001
TC 1700

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,

Applicants submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit a copy of a German Search Report dated May 22, 2000 conducted in German Patent Application No. 100 07 337.9, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

(1) German Patent Application No. 197 08 967 A1, published September 10, 1998, as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention). The Examiner did not note any portions of the above-cited document as relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the German application;

(2) German Patent Application No. 197 06 097 A1, published August 20, 1998, as an "A" category document. The Examiner did not note any portions of the above-cited document as

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relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/323,133, filed June 1, 1999, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document;

(3) German Gebrauchsmusterschrift No. 298 23 556 U1, published October 7, 1999, as an "A" category document. The Examiner did not note any portions of the above-cited document as relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/291,479, filed April 14, 1999, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document;

(4) German Patent No. 42 20 682 C1, issued on December 23, 1993, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claim 1 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,355,593 issued to Kotitschke on October 18, 1994, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document; and

(5) German Patent Application No. 196 03 640 A1, published August 8, 1996, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the Examiner noted Figures 4 and 5 as relevant to claims 1 - 14 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,690,791 issued to Vallius on November 25, 1997, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed (including a copy of the German

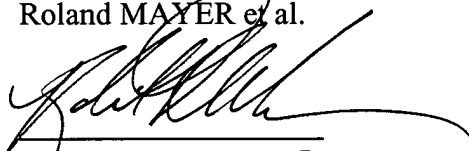
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Search Report) as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Roland MAYER et al.


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May 4, 2001
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